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DE RUEHJA #0947 0920753
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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4169
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

UNCLAS JAKARTA 000947

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [ID](#)
SUBJECT: INDONESIAN DEFENSE MINISTER PLANS WASHINGTON VISIT

11. (SBU) On April 2, we received the following letter dated March 28, 2007 from Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono:

The Honorable John Heffern
Charge d'Affaires/Deputy Ambassador
Embassy of the United States of America
Medan Merdeka Selatan 3-4
Jakarta 10110

Dear Deputy Ambassador:

I am pleased to inform you that between April 15-18, 2007, I plan to visit Washington DC to follow up and consolidate agreement between our two governments in enhancing cooperative activities in the field of defense, I leave Washington DC 18 April for Rome, Italy.

The focus of my visit will be to explain the defense and military reforms in the light of the lifting of restrictions on military equipment from the United States to the defense force of Indonesia, more specifically the reform of the Indonesia Special Forces (Kopassus).

I will also explain to commitment of the Defense Force to support graduated political and economic democratization as our government plans to emphasize equitable growth, employment generation and reduce poverty.

Between 16-17 April I would hope to be able to meet with Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and possibly with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, as well as selected members of the US Senate and House of Representatives.

Please accept, Deputy Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,
Juwono Sudarsono
Minister of Defense

End Note

12. (SBU) Given the short time frame of the proposed visit, we request instructions on how to reply to the Minister, notably on the request for meetings with the Secretaries of Defense and State.
HEFFERN